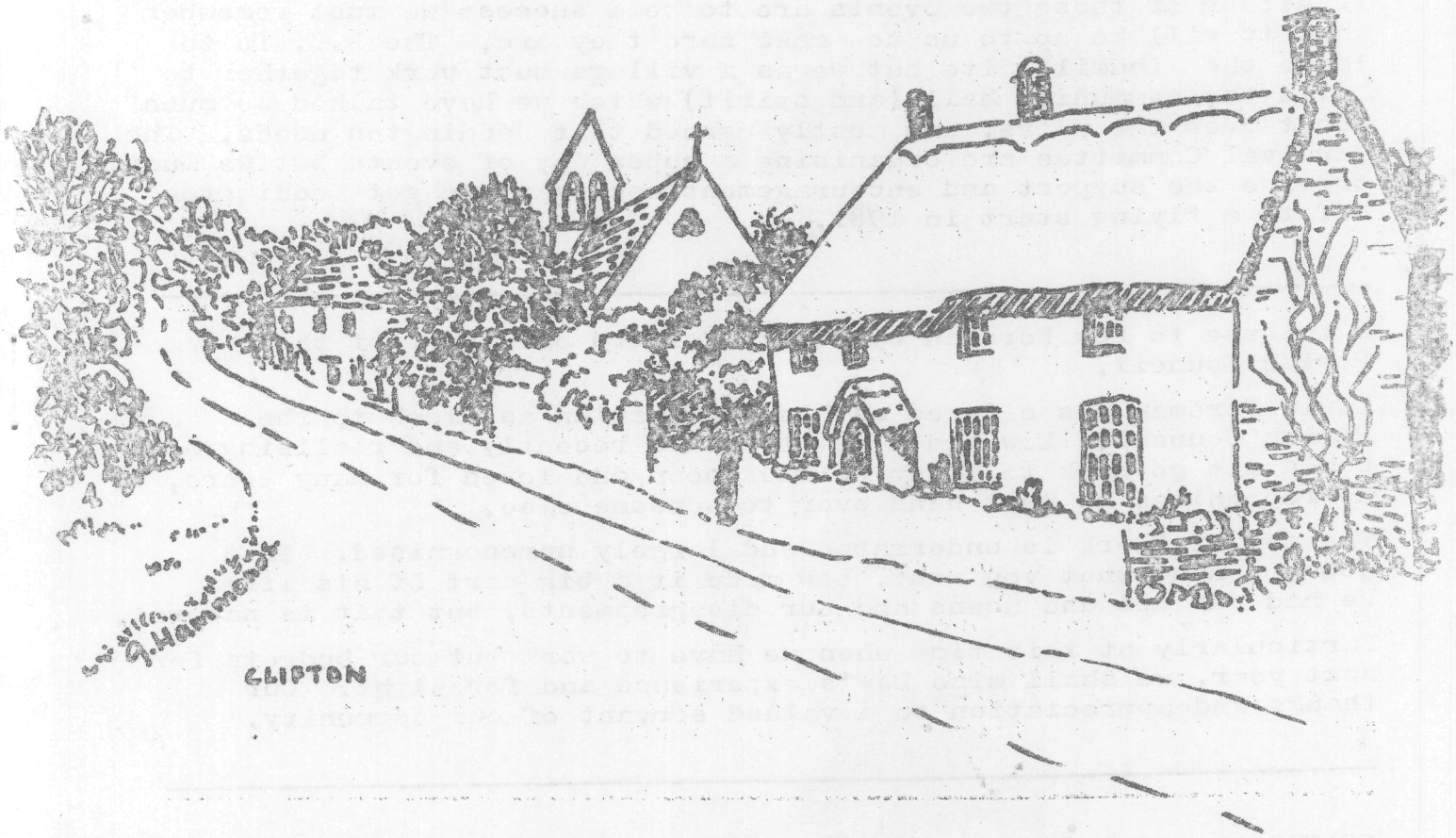
Feb 81

DEDDINGTON NEWS



DEDDINGTON NEWS: Vol 5 No 5 February 1981

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DEDDINGTON NEWS is a community magazine, produced by and for Deddington people. We are always glad to receive letters and articles for inclusion in the magazine.

Extra copies are on sale at the Post Office, cost 10p.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES FOR 1981: £9 full page £6 $\frac{2}{3}$ page
£3 $\frac{1}{3}$ page £1.50 sixth page
Personal ads 1p per word

COVER NOTE: Approach to Clifton from Aynho by Gladys Hammond

EDITORIAL: Well, 1981 has got off to a tremendous start. The P.C. is to lease the Windmill Site and July 4th will see our very own carnival. Further details of both these events will be found in this month's issue together with appeals for help of various sorts.

If either of these two events are to be a success we must remember that it will be up to us to make sure they are. The P.C. is to lease the Windmill Site but we as a village must work together to build the community hall (and spirit) which we have talked so much about over the years, and mostly agreed that Deddington needs. The Carnival Committee are organising a super day of events but we must provide the support and encouragement necessary to get Deddington off to a flying start in 1981.

A tribute to Lew Foreman by Donald Welford on behalf of the Parish Council.

Lewis Foreman has offered us his resignation as Clerk to the Parish Council. Lew had a heart attack recently and realising he could not go back to a job he has known and loved for many years, he recognises he must hand over to someone else.

The job of Clerk is underrated and largely unrecognised. In a job you make what you want, Lew made it a big part of his life. We had our ups and downs and our disagreements, but that is natural.

Particularly at this time when we have to work out our budgets for next year, we shall miss Lew's experience and foresight. Our thanks and appreciation to a valued servant of our community.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Feb
4 Deddington Ladies Speaker Mr.J.Cheney HTC 8p.m.
10 W.I. Speaker Mrs. Stilgoe HTC 7.30p.m.
14 Valentines Dance Warriner School
14 Playgroup Jumble Sale The Hut 2.15p.m.
19 Mothers Union Mrs. Cole Slides & talk The Vicarage 8p.m.
25 Bellringers Open Evening at the Church 7p.m.
March
4 Deddington Ladies Bamix Demonstration HTC 8p.m.
11 Open Discussion Warriner School

DEDDINGTON CARNIVAL

Plans for Deddington's Midsummer Carnival are under way, off the ground and flying high - literally! For one of the high spots of the jamboree will be a mini air display with parachutists dropping into the Market Square, an aerobatic bi-plane and a glider doing its thing overhead.

It is four years since we had a get-together of this sort - Jubilee 1977, I'm sure you remember it well. Then, everybody said let's do it again next year, but being Deddington, we get round to things slowly. Anyway, come 4 July we're off. Independence Day and Wimbledon Finals it may be but Deddington comes first. A getting-together day, a fun day and if there's any money left in the kitty, a good reason for contributing to Market Place loos or lights, Windmill Hall, or whatever.

What goodies do we have in store? A brief outline to whet the appetite and let you know who's organising what:

All day: 6-a-side football competition (PAUL COX) and gymkhana (CELIA DAY and JILL BOYD) on the Castle Grounds
Afternoon: procession of floats, vintage cars, Carnival Queen (JILL CHEESEMAN)
Children's fancy dress competition, entertainer, barbecue refreshments and disco (NIGEL ODDY)
Church bells, flower festival and exhibition, tower visits (WALTER CAMORN)
Parachute drop, 'pit special', glider (MONTY SPENCER)
Aunt Sally competition (KEITH ANDERSON)
Tug of war competition (CLIFF HARPER)
Bike race round the pubs (JOHN PARKINSON)
Adderbury Morris Men
Evening: barbecue (BOB HOLMES) and dance in the covered Bull Ring

Who's paying for it all? A Grand Auction will be held on 9 May (organised by JOHN VAUGHAN) as a major fundraiser and there will be a mammoth raffle (NIGEL ODDY) with a £100 main prize and lots of other goodies. And for starters we have a generous donation from Deddington Society. Other events will be self-financing.

What help do we still need?

1. A fantastic front-man to MC the afternoon's proceedings through a public address system. No blushing violets, only budding TV presenters and the like need apply.
2. Celebrities to open the jollities and generally be around.
3. For those who can't commit themselves now, we'd like your help on the day - stewarding the procession, organising car parks etc.

Watch this space for further details. Meanwhile if you would like to help with anything or if you have any more ideas, please get in touch with any of the people listed above, or the committee:

CHAIRMAN MONTY SPENCER (38672) TREASURER DENYS HEYWOOD (38212)
VICE CHAIRMAN and PUBLICITY MARY ROBINSON (38272)
SECRETARIES DEREK and UNA VICKERS (38986)

Mary Robinson

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of

JUMBLE, NEARLY NEW,

CAKES, TOYS ETC .....

Saturday 14th February

2.15 pm at the Playgroup Hut.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

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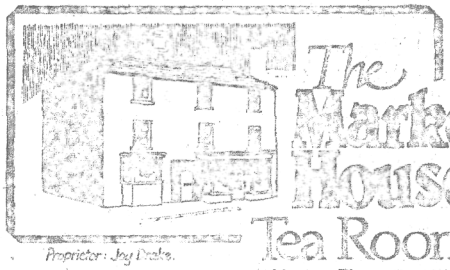

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No very young children.
Details and photos from Steeple Aston 40633 (evening).

KIND THOUGHTS TOWARDS FRED ABLE

I have been told by a nurse at the Horton Hospital that, at Christmas, she wished she had had her camera to show the picture of delight on Fred Able's face when he was wheeled to the ward window to be visited by his donkey. I don't know who took his donkey to see him or how it was arranged but it was certainly a kind thought and much appreciated by Fred. (Fred lived in the old caravan on the Oxford Road and had a stroke a year ago.)

Carol Langstaff

MOTHERS UNION

Our wine and cheese Christmas party was a very happy and successful evening enhoyed by everyone.

I was enrolled as new enrolling member at the beginning of Dec and Suzanne Allen as a Mothers Union member. Grateful thanks from both of us for the love and support extended by so many Mothers Union members who specially attended the service and helped us through a very nerve-racking morning.

We held a carol service for Mothers and Toddlers for the first time and this seemed to be a popular event. Thank you and congratulations to Rev. Hannah for battling on with his talk at all costs and well done to all the little ones who made lovely angels and shepherds etc.

Our first meeting of the year was held at the Vicarage. We discussed just one part of St. Richard's prayer and hope to follow this up with further discussion at a later date. Our next meeting will be on February 19th, 8p.m. at the Vicarage when Mrs. Cole from Adderbury will show slides and give a talk about the work of the M.U. in parts of Africa she has visited.

Maggie Rampley

NATURE NOTES

"We call this a lazy wind" said the farmer to me one bitterly cold day a couple of weeks ago. "The wind blows straight through you, it is too lazy to go round." I had not heard the expression before and wonder how many local weather sayings Deddington people know. Perhaps some readers will write in, it would be interesting to know more.

One morning last week I found our cat playing with a pigmy shrew on the lawn. This the smallest British shrew measures only 2 inches. It gave me a bite with its needle sharp teeth for rescuing it and rushed away into the long grass squeeking furiously. It is their aggressive noisy behaviour that has given their name to a scolding woman! Shrews are restless insect eating creatures and they do not hibernate but search for food constantly by day and night. They make their nests in holes under hedges and in long grass.

The garden birds are singing well now, marking out their territories for nest building later. One robin sings well into the night at the end of our garden and I think the reason is that there is plenty of light down there from Benfield's garage nearby. If we get more cold weather and we surely will, the birds will still need feeding to encourage them to stay around. A good mixed diet of seeds and nuts, porridge oats and grated cheese and fruit, especially over ripe apples, will suit most birds. Tits love cooked fat. Most important is a fresh supply of water daily, put in a shallow container so that they can bath as well as drink.

Pat Hannah

DEDDINGTON COUNCIL TENANTS GROUP

A committee to represent the council tenants of Deddington has been formed because of the recent £3 per week rent rise. But, that is not all as we all know further increases are on the way.

After this rent crisis has been resolved, one way or the other, the committee will stay active throughout the year in case anything else should arise. Thank you tenants for your support and we hope you will continue to support us during the year. The committee members will welcome any suggestions or advice from council tenants not just about this increase but anything concerning themselves or other tenants that they feel should be brought to our attention.

Mrs. Pam Dancer, Secretary (38085)

THE WARRINER SCHOOL

PTA Committee Meeting 19th January, 1981 - matters raised by Deddington parents.

School meals: the accommodation in the sandwich room it was felt was adequate and the problem was easily solved by the children themselves by staggering the times at which they eat their packed lunch. With regard to the canteen cafeteria service and children who get 'free meals', the committee were sympathetic to any embarrassment that has been caused to these children or their parents but no practical solution could be found to administer this more discreetly. If any parent still feels particularly strongly about this matter and has any practical suggestions then the committee will be pleased to consider them.

Social events: the Bridge & Bingo evening on the 27th January was changed to Bridge & Beetle with 19 Beetle Drivers and 12 Bridge Players largely consisting of staff and Bloxham parents. A very enjoyable evening I am told although the numbers supporting were disappointing. VALENTINES DANCE - February 14th - Don't miss this. A very popular event - the tickets are going well and the buffet and music will be good.

Academic matters: The broader aspects of education continue to be discussed and at the risk of being repetitive I am delighted that the following subjects were included

1. Fifth year homework and the importance of cooperation between staff to ensure that the pupil is not overloaded.
2. The problem of combatting apathy in pupils by the shortage of jobs for schooleavers. It was agreed that the teacher has a responsibility to stimulate the young mind into appreciating the luxury of knowledge in all things and not confined to the narrow route to a specific career.
3. Religious teaching in schools - is this too 'watered down' and if so is society the poorer.

If you have a particular matter which concerns you, you have an opportunity at the ANY QUESTIONS EVENING on 11th March to put your point to the panel. Other schools in the area are being invited. Please send your question to the secretary:- Mrs. Rita Mortimer, 25 Lawrence Leys, Bloxham. It is hoped that an open discussion will follow the specific questions sent in. The panel is likely to consist of a representative from the Federation of Parent Teacher Associations, a Church representative, a teacher from the private sector, two Warriner School teachers (one male, one female).

Next Committee Meeting Monday 2nd March - items please

John Burdon

DEDDINGTON RANGER GUIDES

On 12th December we had a meal out followed by a visit to a disco organised by Rangers and Venture Scouts in Banbury. On 9th January we took the Guides and Scouts to Solihull for ice skating.

We have been trying out pin weaving. In the near future we hope to begin making patchwork blankets using a knitting machine as well as handknitting and crocheting squares. We would appreciate any odd bits of wool. The blankets will eventually go to elderly people in our area. We will be joining other guides at an international evening in Banbury on February 6th.

Jackie Stammers

NOTES ON P.C. MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER

Mr. Douglas Ward took the chair in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Donald Welford. Councillors J. Cheeseman, R. Gardner, K. Garrett, R. Garvey, R. Hayward, M. O'Neil, M. Robinson, M. Spencer, R. Stevens and J. Webber were present.

After agreeing to refer the problems of parking in Hudson Street to OCC, the P.C. discussed the state of children's swings at the Castle Grounds. It was learnt that both Monty Spencer and the Clerk Mr. Foreman had seats in their possession which might be suitable as replacements. Monty Spencer offered to bring his seat to the next meeting - his offer was accepted and Mr. Foreman was asked to bring his along as well.

The ownership of the Old Mortuary remained a matter of concern to the Council. It was resolved to write to CDC over this and to do nothing pending a reply although several councillors felt that more urgent action should be taken.

Lighting improvements in St. John's Way Hempton, Windmill Street and Mackley Close were agreed upon. John Webber will look into the possibility of making an insurance claim in respect of the damage to the Hempton light. Mary Robinson reported that a lamp in New Street damaged in an accident in June had still not been repaired.

Having discussed possible sites for a new notice for the Castle Grounds Councillors decided to put off a decision until their next meeting. They agreed to a request from Commander Forsyth to be allowed to examine minutes of previous meetings and a letter written by the P.C. to Mr. Neil Marten.

Ken Garrett told the Council of the dangers at the junction of Church Street and Market Place at the rear of Tuckers Stores. The Council decided to refer this problem and the state of the junction of Barford Road and the main road at Hempton to OCC. John Webber had put forward detailed proposals for the improvement of the latter junction. He also expressed concern at the size of the potholes in the main road between Hempton and Deddington.

The Council was informed that the latest proposal for the Windmill Site is that it should be leased from OCC. They agreed that there should be a meeting with an OCC representative to learn the precise terms of the proposed lease.

Two planning applications were discussed and the Council resolved to make no comment upon these to the Planning Authority. It was agreed that various cheques should be signed although one was withheld for consideration privately in committee.

Roger Rose

NOTES ON P.C. MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 1981

Present: D. Welford, R. Hayward, D. Ward, K. Garrett, Mary Robinson, R. Gardner, R. Stephens, M. O'Neil, A. Mackenzie, J. Webber, Jill Cheeseman, B. Fuller, M. Spencer. Apologies: R. Garvey

It was announced that Mr. Foreman, due to unhealth, was unable to continue in his capacity as Clerk to the P C. With regrets Councillors decided there was no alternative but to advertise the position.

Windmill Site: Messrs. Seddon & Thomas of OCC attended the meeting to ascertain whether the P.C. was still interested in leasing the site. They stressed that this was the P.C.'s last opportunity to do so. The rent being asked was £1,700 p.a. If the P.C. was not interested the property would be placed on the open market where it was fully expected that this figure could be exceeded. A contract would have to be signed by the end of March. Councillors discussed the matter fully before Messrs. Seddon & Thomas arrived and again after their departure. During these discussions the following points emerged:-

- the length of the lease (at present 42 years) could quite easily be extended to 60 or even 99 years
- the lease could be terminated at twelve months notice
- the lease could be converted into freehold at a later date
- the necessary easements would be granted for the provision of main services
- rent to be reviewed every 7 years. If however a 'partnership' arrangement was made with a sports club and the venture began to show a profit the OCC would need to review the rent position
- no objections to the existing hall being demolished
- possession possible before the legal formalities were completed
- there would be a six months rent free period as from 1 April 1981

Mr. Garrett proposed that the P.C. entered into a lease at 12 months notice and this w s seconded and carried 10 votes to 3. Mr. Gardner asked that his vote against be recorded in the minutes.

With the decision finally taken to go ahead with the Windmill Community Centre, the Parish Council would like to set up an independent Management Committee as soon as possible. Everyone interested in taking part is asked to contact the Chairman, Donald Welford, or the Vice Chairman, Douglas Ward. In particular representatives from village groups and associations are urged to get in touch, so that the 6 month rent free period can be used as constructively as possible. Over to you Deddington - Ed.

Mrs. Robinson referred to a letter from Mr. R. Forsyth expressing concern about inaccuracies in the minutes of P.C. meetings. Mrs. Cheeseman offered to investigate and the matter was adjourned to the next meeting.

Castle Grounds: A quote had been received from Robs Gardening Services for grass cutting and Mr. Garrett was asked to obtain another quote from Mr. Chard. Mr. John Burdon had written to ask permission to use the Grounds for cricket matches with a view to forming a local cricket team. This was approved. An application by the Carnival Committee to close the grounds for one day and charge admittance to a Gymkhana and Six-a-side football competition was approved despite doubts expressed by Mr. Hayward about the effects this would have on the football pitches. The Carnival Committee undertook to return the Grounds in good order.

Old Mortuary: The CDC has replied that they are successors in title to these premises having taken them over from the old Banbury RDC.

Street Lighting: It was agreed to spend the money precepted last year for the main road (or what was left of it) on lights for the rest of the village. The SEB were to be sent a copy of proposed improvements suggested by the lighting committee and submit an estimate for the work.

John Webber urged that the P.C.'s decision taken privately in committee last month to pay a cheque be recorded in the minutes. The P.C. decided this was unnecessary.

Jane Rose

Deddington Parish Council.

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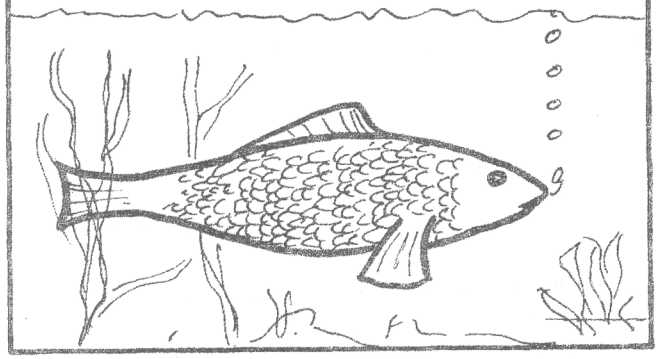

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YOGA

On 15th January at 7 o'clock, a Yoga class, arranged through Banbury College of Further Education, with tuition by Tessa Cullen started at the Holly Tree Club. 14 aspiring ladies presented themselves for the first of 10 yoga sessions, being resolved to start 1981 with improvement to both mind and body. Although the class is of mixed experience, yoga is geared to personal achievement not competition, so anyone who would be interested in the future need not feel inhibited in joining. Unfortunately as the Holly Tree Club restricts us to 14 people as a maximum, the class is full at present, but anyone interested in future classes should contact Marie Smith (38245) or Jill Heighway (38075).

GUIDES

Our home-spun christmas entertainment was a huge success - the Scouts were great sports and made superb Nolan sisters! Thank you to everyone who came - all donations - almost £20 went to the Blue Peter Appeal at the Guides and Scouts request. Congratulations to all who took part in the show - all the hard work paid off. Special thanks to June Kellar for giving up so much of her time to help organise the dance routine.

At the family candlelit carol-service, Sarah Evans read beautifully on behalf of the Guide company.

Early January saw us at Solihull ice-rink with the Scouts. Marvellous evening. I wasn't going to mention the number of times the Guiders sat down but I see the Scouts have! Everyone had a go and we all suprised ourselves at just how much like Robin Cousins we all were ...

We have been very busy this term already. Laying plans for this term and for summer activities. Plans for this term include a make-up demonstration, home-nursing course, a ½ term walk with other Guides, Thinking-Day ceremony, visit to the Gang Show, Senior Guides go to International day at Summertown, all of us are going to an International Evening in Banbury etc. etc.

In May there will be a weekend camp for beginner Guides at Great Tew and in April the Senior Guides will have a chance to go to the Adventure Camp run by Rangers and Venture Scouts. Our own camp will be at Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford from 15-22 August we shall be camping in a site adjacent to the Scouts!

Well done the colour party on Sunday at the Wesleyan Chapel, Karen and Sarah Evans and Alice Bouverie and thank you to Maurice Nicholls for a lively family service.

Lastly a word of welcome to our 4 new recruits.

Maggie Rampley

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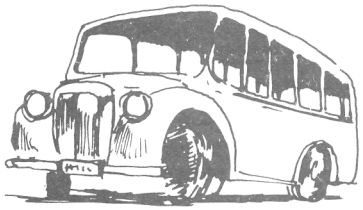

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DEDDINGTON HANDBELL RINGERS

The Deddington Handbell Ringers thank everyone who invited us into their homes and everyone who sent donations to the belfry fund during the Christmas season. The total amount collected was £189.25 which goes a long way towards the £214 which we paid out on new bell ropes.

Deddington Church Bellringers own a set of 42 handbells, worth quite a lot of money, and feel it is a waste to have such a valuable asset unused. If anyone would like to come along and see the handbells, try ringing them and is prepared to give up one hour a week to practice same, we are having an open night in Church on Wednesday, 25th February, at 7.00p.m., with a view to getting a team together.

Freda Ivings

CHURCH NEWS

Last Christmas already belongs to the remote world of the past. But as this is the first issue of Deddington News since then, now I have the first opportunity to thank those who gave generously at the Carol Service in church. We sent £70 to Helen House, Oxford. This is a new project to be run by the (Anglican) All Saints sisters in Cowley. It is a hospice for children who are terminally ill, or for whom normal hospital treatment is inappropriate. The children will stay in the hospice for a limited period. This will sometimes relieve the parents, who otherwise are tied to the child in need. Sometimes the stay will positively benefit the child. Nursing care will be provided. The Reverend Mother is a qualified Childrens Nurse. Parents will also be able to stay in the hospice when necessary.

This is a splendid idea, to meet a real need. The present moment seems a most unpromising time to start a project like this. It may need £400,000 to build the hospice and the regular running costs will be high. But the All Saints sisters see a job here worth doing, and are getting down to it. They ask for our help.

Still on about Christmas, we thank Susannah Woodd and Linda Smith who went carol singing and gave the collection of £1.50 to the Church.

STEWARDSHIP MEANS US. The Stewardship movement in all Christian communities impresses on us this one truth, that all our resources are given us by God. We did not create our world. It is not ours to do as we like with. God has entrusted it to us. We acknowledge this by offering it back to him.

We practice this by deliberately devoting a proportion of all our resources to God through the Church. We pledge ourselves to give so much of our time, our abilities and our income to God. It is easy to put this off. So every three years this parish has a Renewal Campaign. We ask a small number of visitors to go to all Church members in the parish and ask them to pledge their support in practical terms.

The time for this is June. Note Saturday 20th June for our Stewardship Supper at the school. Our Stewardship Service is the next day, 21st June at 10.30 a.m. when Canon D. I. T. Eastman of St. George's, Windsor, will preach on the subject. He was formerly Vicar of Banbury.

Richard Hannah

GREAT BLUE PETER BRING & BUY SALE

This was held in early January and the fine sum of £50 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came and spent their money, brought items to sell, made donations and helped in many other ways.

Special thanks to those who gave up the best part of a day to help run the event - the Stammers, Maskery, Whitton and Webb families and Maureen Wright.

The Rampley Family

HOLLY TREE CLUB

May I, on behalf of the Senior Citizens, thank the Deddington Ladies for the splendid Xmas Party they provided on Saturday December 6th. Such delicious food and wine, not to mention tea and Xmas cake. A special thanks to Mrs. Pat Franklin who provided and baked so many large potatoes, served up 'with it had to be butter' and the jolly knees up she and her friends treated us to at the end of the evening. Before that, we were entertained by the Banbury Elizabethan Players. How well they sang and performed without use of stage. Mr. Harris and his accordian gave us our usual sing-song, to finish a very happy party for us all. Mr. Lines, our Chairman, thanked all those concerned for all they provided and the hard work and expense it cost those smashing 'Ladies of Deddington'.

Florence Anderson

P.S. I forgot to mention the large bag of fruit and nuts we came home with.

SCOUT NEWS

We're now back after the Christmas break and still thinking about hibernation and winter woolies. It seems a long way off but we've already decided about summer camp at Youlbury, near Oxford from 15th August. To keep costs down this year we are travelling with and camping near the Guides.

Looking back, 6 of our Scouts helped with the Guide Show at the Wesleyan Hall before Christmas, poor Paul Wilkins will never be the same again after the Generation Game. I think everyone who saw the show enjoyed it; Paul & Ian Wilkins, Lee Hall, Colin Broadbent, Richard Johnson & David Preedy all received their Entertainers Badge for their efforts.

We also joined the Guides, Rangers and older Brownies for an ice-skating trip to Solihul, Leaders as well ventured onto the ice for a quick burn-up. The tally was good: Scout Leader falls NIL. Guide Leader falls 2 (plus one quick trip to the bar for dutch courage). There were a few damp kids (and one very wet Guider! Ed.) on the way back.

Congratulations to Lee Hall and Paul Wilkins for gaining their Advance Scout Standard and to Andrew Wilson for his Scout Standard. Also our thanks to Rev. Nichols for the invitation to the family service at the Wesleyan Hall.

Alan Rampley

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

The Rev. Richard Hannah claims to be puzzled by an apparent contradiction between public opinion and the behaviour of young people (Wilt thou Winifred). Let him therefore try this one for size. The great Barnum, an American fairground showman of national repute once said: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time."

Permissiveness and the 'new' attitude towards marriage are certainly fooling a minority at the present time, like the lady who changed her marriage licence to a season ticket but for how long? These trends come and go, causing a ripple on the waters for a while, and then everything sinks back to normal, until the next time.

Which bears out what philosophy tells us - the more things change the more they remain virtually the same.

Lewis Foreman, 1 Mackley Close

DEDDINGTON LADIES

On Friday November 28th we held our Christmas Dinner and Disco at the Midland Marts, Banbury. Thanks to Mrs. Betty Walton and staff for such a good meal.

On Saturday December 6th the Senior Citizens party at the Holly Tree Club. About 40 senior citizens attended. Each was given a bag of fruit at the end. We also delivered some to the house-bound. Entertainment was by 'Harold' on the accordion and the Elizabeth Singers of Banbury including Mrs. Cynthia Garvey. Thank you Cynthia for bringing them along.

January 14th at 8p.m. the A.G.M. at the Holly Tree Club. Jackie Stammers gave the Treasurer's Report - a very good year moneywise. Daphne Harper read the minutes and Ann Paul gave the Secretary's Report. Thanks to Ann for doing this for the last two years.

The following committee members, Jackie Stammers, Brenda Munson, Maureen French and Daphne Harper did not seek re-election, feeling it was time for some new blood. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us during our two years in office and all who have given raffle prizes and thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Garrett and family for displaying our posters and lists at all times.

Our next meeting will be at Holly Tree Club on Feb 4th, the first Wednesday of the month at 8p.m. Speaker Mr. John Cheyney to talk and show slides of Israel - a popular speaker.

On March 4th we are having a Bamix Fresh Food Demonstration - this should be enjoyable. All are welcome to come along - the more the better. Coffee and biscuits will be served, free.

The new committee will be as follows: Lesley Green, Juliet O'Kane, Winnie Brain, Ann Paul, Pat Franklin, Jackie Adkins, Debbie King and Penny Berry. Good luck to you all and success for your term in office. Debbie will be taking my job over to report for the News. Thank you one and all for your help and support.

Daphne Harper

W.I. REPORT

During November, 12 members attended a weekly cookery course, 'Entertaining with Ease'. We all very much enjoyed these evenings which took place at Mrs. Riley's house and we all learnt something new. Each time we came away feeling very satisfied since we were allowed to sample each dish that was demonstrated. This is a particularly useful thing to be able to do and much better than simply looking. It's the flavour that matters after all. We hope that Mr. Riley also enjoyed the classes, somehow portions of food seemed to be smuggled out of the kitchen in his direction. Our thanks to Mrs. Riley for lending us her kitchen.

In December our meeting really reached fame: an outing to the Little Tew theatre had been organised to see a Victorian Entertainment and lo! our members found themselves on the BBC programme 'Nationwide'. The TV cameras happened to be there that night and interviewed some of them. Our Christmas meeting was the occasion of our annual Christmas party. Mrs. Walton laid on a varied and plentiful buffet supper with all sorts of extras. We were even allowed to raffle some pots of cyclamen which had decorated the tables. As entertainment after the meal, Mrs. Caporn and other members organsied games, such restful sport as blowing up paper bags and popping them and passing oranges along the feet. Just the right sort of light exercise after a heavy meal. To round off, we sang Christmas carols. It was a very good evening. Ladies had been invited to come in home-made party hats and they certainly produced some original and bizarre looking headgear.

The January meeting took place on the 13th at a bleak and icy cold Holly Tree Club, the heating having failed. In spite of hastily improvised electric fires and keeping coats on, we gradually reached teeth-chattering point and felt very sorry for our lecturer Mr. Vaisey who had come from Oxford in a snowstorm and then had to speak under such poor conditions. None the less we were lucky enough to hear one of the most interesting talks for a long time. Mr. Vaisey is Keeper of MSS at the Bodleian Library but his hobby is the history of retailing and advertising through the ages and he gleans his knowledge through collections of 'throwaway' material such as paper bags and illustrated billheads. He had some fascinating slides to show us with pictures of old and vanished shops such as Coopers and Boffins. He urged us to hang into old bus tickets and advertisements which are pushed through letter boxes for the sake of historians a hundred years hence. Some hot tea and delicious cakes were more than welcome and took the edge off the chill, but we were glad to get home. The competition for the evening was an old book. The first prize went to Mrs. Elsley, 2nd & 3rd prizes to Mrs. Ferree and Mrs. Reynolds.

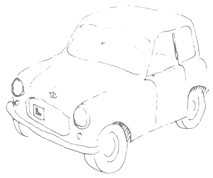
The next meeting will be on Feb 10th at 7.30p.m. at the Holly Tree Club. The speaker will be Mrs. Stilgoe (Flying Doctor Service in Zambia).

W.I. Recipe of the month - Smoked Bacon and Lentil Soup

6oz lentils - washed and soaked overnight; 6 rashers chopped bacon smoked streaky is best; 2 chopped carrots; 2 finely sliced celery stalks; 8oz finely shredded cabbage; 8oz tin tomatoes; 2 crushed cloves garlic; 3 pints stock; 1 tbl oil, seasoning

Method: heat oil and fry bacon lightly. Add all vegetables except cabbage and fry till slightly brown. Add drained lentils, tomatoes stock and garlic. Bring to boil, add lid and simmer for an hour. 15 mins before time, add cabbage and season. Sprinkle with parsley before serving. Serve with toast or thick slices of fresh bread.

Marianne Elsley



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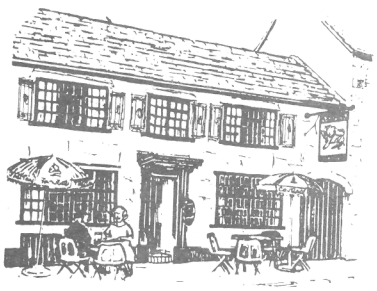

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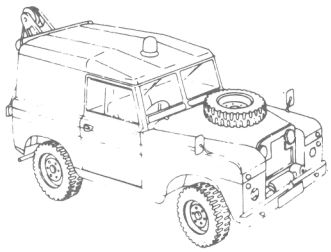

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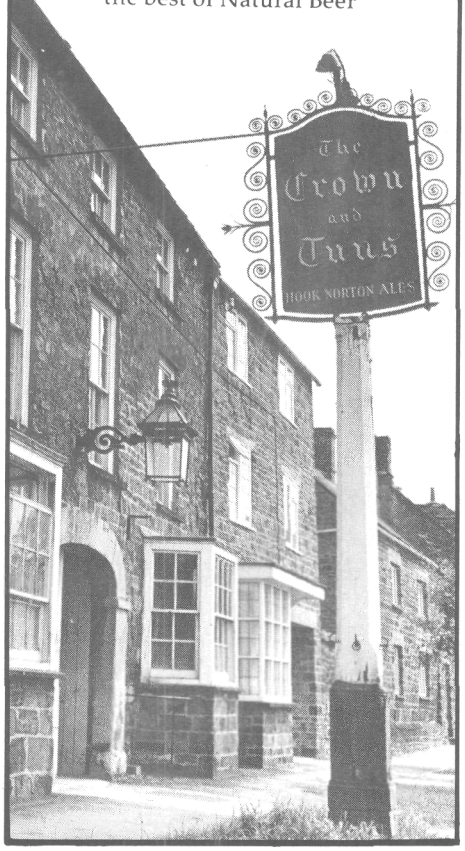

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